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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Canceled).

Claim 24 (Previously amended) A method of making a ballistically effective, flexible composite having an SEAT value equal to or greater than 257 J-m<sup>2</sup>/Kg on impact by .38 caliber, 158 grain lead bullets, comprising the steps of:

arranging a plurality of filaments in a fibrous web;

placing matrix islands within the plurality of filaments, each of said matrix islands having an average size of less than 5 mm in a planar dimension; and

causing each matrix island to connect at least two filaments in fixed relationship;

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wherein the final volume ratio of matrix to the plurality of filaments in the composite is approximately 0.4 or less.

Claim 25 (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein said placing step comprises spraying matrix particles.

Claim 26 (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein said causing step is selected from the group consisting of applying heat, applying pressure and a combination thereof.

Claim 27 (Currently amended) A method of making a flexible composite having a V50 value against .38 caliber, 158 grain lead bullets, greater than a composite having a substantially identical of the same areal density and construction, except for having a continuous polymeric matrix, comprising the steps of:

- arranging a plurality of filaments in a fibrous web;

- placing matrix islands within the plurality of filaments, each of said matrix islands having an average size of less than 5 mm in a planar dimension;

- causing each matrix island to connect at least two filaments in fixed relation

wherein the final volume ratio of matrix to the plurality of filaments in the composite is approximately 0.4 or less.

Claim 28 (New) A method of making a flexible composite having an SEAT value from 257 to 377 J-m<sup>2</sup>/Kg on impact by .38 caliber, 158 grain lead bullets, comprising the steps of:

- arranging a plurality of filaments in a fibrous web;

- placing matrix islands within the plurality of filaments, each of said matrix islands having an average size of less than 5 mm in a planar dimension;

- causing each matrix island to connect at least two filaments in fixed relationship;

wherein the final volume ratio of matrix to the plurality of filaments in the composite is approximately 0.4 or less.